Mr. President : You have lost that opportunity *(Laughter)*.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Was not the scheme sanctioned in the Budget for 1117 and the amount allotted in the Budget for 1117.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Then probably it was done without consulting the Madras Government.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: In the hope that it will be sanctioned.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The amount was sanctioned in the Budget of 1117 but the work was not taken up.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: I do not exactly remember the reason why the amount had to be lapsed. I think the investigation was not complete by that time.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I think Rs. 25,000 or even Rs. 75,000 was sanctioned.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The amount was sanctioned but in that year the investigations had not been completed.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamanglam)*: May I know, Sir, what are the difficulties that stand in the way of the Government to send the Chief Engineer to Madras to personally negotiate things and to carry on the matter in a business like manner?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: There is no difficulty for any officer of this Government to go to Madras to talk matters.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: He will be only too glad to go.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

28. **Mr. M. Krishna Menon** *(Trichur-North)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—whether they are contemplating any steps to facilitate transport by road, rail and water ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes, except with regard to extension of rail roads.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Will the Government enlighten this House as to the steps already contemplated with regard to the facilities ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It is a very large question to answer, but I might possibly make it short by referring the hon'ble member to the report of Road Board which will be published shortly. It has already been prepared and submitted to the Government. In that Road Board Report they have contemplated the construction of 50 miles of new roads in the State and the improvement of the existing roads. The House is also aware that we are constructing the Anamalai Chalakkudi road also. As regards water transport there is an item in the budget for 1119 for improving the Kokkala Karanchira Canal.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether there is any proposal for navigation connection between Kunnamkulam and Edakazhiyur ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: That is an old question which has been investigated by this Department and also by the Revenue Department in consultation with the Madras Government. The present position of that scheme is that it need not be taken up now.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know the reason for that.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: After collecting trade statistics in that year it was thought that the expenditure on the canal will not be commensurate with the advantages to be derived from it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Now that the nail industry is thriving very well during the last year water connection will be very useful.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know whether the Government will take steps to run at least one more train between Ernakulam and Shoranur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Government would be glad if more trains are run, but it is not just now possible.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We are feeling the difficulty. That question was taken up with the South Indian Railway, but it is not possible to have another train on the line now.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Since our Diwan is on the Railway Board will he be requested to go to Madras to see that a morning train comes to Ernakulam.

Mr. P. P. Devssy *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the Kokkala-Karanchira facilitates communication between Trichur, Ernakulam and Cochin.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes.

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Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* May I know whether the Government are aware of the number of trains running between Quilon and Trivandrum run by the South Indian Railway.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* I know there are four trains. That is my information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the Government and the Chief Engineer are aware of the difficulties of transport landing at Ernakulam at the ferry jetty.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes. There is some trouble on account of the low water near the ferry jetty. Now at present the Huzur Office Jetty is serviceable during low tides and the ferry jetty is used during high tides.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know if we have not got a dredger of our own.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it not possible to get a dredger and dredge the place so that there may not be any trouble.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No dredger is available and the location of the ferry jetty is rather unfortunate. For about 600 ft. there is low water and dredging is not a very simple matter and even if it is dredged experts think that it may be silted up very quickly so that nothing could be done there unless it is to extend the jetty another 600 ft. which is rather a very very hard job now.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will the Government copy the example of Travancore in regard to bus transport.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* You mean nationalization of bus transport. That question has not been considered.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will the Government kindly consider that scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it not possible to make a tank near the landing jetty so that boats may go into the tank as is done for the Alleppey boats at their landing place.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I shall look into it.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE—GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

29. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government has any idea to revise and enhance the dearness allowance of their servants;

(*b*) whether they have any idea to enhance the dearness allowance of aided teachers;

(*c*) if so, when and what amount?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* (*a*) to (*c*) The question of dearness allowance is generally before the Government and they will do whatever is possible from time to time.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether there is any other scheme now pending with the Government to revise the existing dearness allowance of the Government servants.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There is no scheme as such pending with the Government but the Government are aware that the question of dearness allowance has to be tackled more seriously and more sympathetically and they are considering about it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether a scheme is not now pending with the Government that was placed before them about a month back, that is just before Diwan Mr. Dixon left the Diwanship.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* There is no such question pending with the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Has the question been taken up about that time.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I said the question has been taken up from time to time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I don't want that vague answer. My pointed question was whether the question by about the time which I mentioned has not been taken up at that time.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member has already been answered. He cannot compel the Members of the Government to give an answer that he wants.

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